(*d*) if so, whether action has been taken for the same against such persons ; and

(*e*) if so, the total number of cases so taken up in the Peermade and Devicolam taluks ?

Mr. K. Paramesvara Panickar : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 527.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Action has been taken against them under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

(*e*) 11 in Devicolam taluk and 25 in Peermade taluk.

Kayankulam Dispensary.

64. ***Mr. Haji Hassan Yacoob Sait** : (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the frequent petitions from the people of the area concerned to raise the Kayankulam Dispensary to the status of a District Hospital and to provide a suitable Government building and premises for the same ?

Mr. James Simpson : The institution is housed in a spacious rented building having accommodation for eight in-patients and it is only seven miles away from Mavelikara where there is a well-equipped hospital. The question of a better Government building for the institution has been ordered to wait.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : May I know whether there is any proposal to raise the status of the dispensary ?

Mr. James Simpson : No proposal, Sir.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : May I know whether there are District Hospitals at a distance of 7 miles from each other in the State ?

Mr. James Simpson : Yes.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail : If so, may I know what is the objection in raising the status of this dispensary in view of the several representations received from the people of Kayankulam ?

Mr. James Simpson : In my view a hospital is not necessary.

Principles on which promotions of clerks are made.

65. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur Kunnathunad and Mavelikara* cum *Devicolam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether it is an accepted principle that seniority should be the primary consideration for promotion, where other qualifications are equal ; and

(*b*) whether the passing of departmental and account test examinations is considered as favourable aspects for promotion among clerical staff ?

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